

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Roger K. Patterson  
Director

November 3, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns  
Governor

Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
Garold Ohmstede, Chair  
706 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 618  
Alma, NE 68920

Dear Mr. Ohmstede,

Attached is the official forecast of the 2005 Harlan County Lake water supply.

The projected irrigation supply is less than 119,000 acre-feet. Under terms of the Final Settlement Stipulation, beginning in 2006, a forecast of less than 119,000 acre-feet will trigger "Water-Short Year Administration".

Water-Short Year Administration requires that Nebraska limit its Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use above Guide Rock to not more than the portion of our Allocation that is derived from sources above Guide Rock. This determination will be made on a 2 year running average. 2005 will be year 1 of the 2-year average. As you know, 2005 is also year 3 of our 5 year running average for purposes of normal compliance calculations.

If it remains dry it will be critically important to control our water use in 2005 to avoid the need for significant cutbacks in 2006. Therefore, rules need to be in place within each NRD for 2005 that will allow Nebraska to remain in compliance with the Republican River Compact.

I appreciate the considerable effort you collectively are putting into the development of Integrated Management Plans and associated rules and regulations. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Roger K. Patterson  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Middle Republican NRD  
Upper Republican NRD  
Tri-Basin NRD  
Dave Cookson